

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 COLOMB 01312 220943Z  
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 PASO-00 /019 W  
-----081372 221626Z /53

R 220910Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9854

UNCLAS COLOMBO 1312

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAIR, OTRA, CE  
SUBJECT: MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR SRI LANKA INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE

REF: MAY-SPILLANE LETTER OF MARCH 9

TO: DANIEL F. MAY  
VICE PRESIDENT-FINANCE  
NORTH CENTRAL AIRLINES, INC.  
7500 NORTHLINER DRIVE  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55450

1. YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 9 REGARDING MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE  
FOR AIR CEYLON WAS NOT RECEIVED HERE UNTIL MARCH 21.

2. I ASSUME YOU HAVE SEEN COPIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI  
LANKA'S REQUEST FOR A COLLABORATOR IN ESTABLISHING A NEW  
INTERNATIONAL CARRIER TO REPLACE AIR CEYLON. UNFORTUNATELY,  
THAT IS ABOUT ALL THE WRITTEN MATERIAL THERE IS; AIR CEYLON  
HAS NOT PUBLISHED AN ANNUAL REPORT FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

3. SINCE IT SEVERED ITS CONNECTION WITH UTA ALMOST TWO  
YEARS AGO, AIR CEYLON HAS DETERIORATED INTO A TOTAL DISASTER.  
THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT AIR CEYLON HAS SUCH A  
BAD NAME INTERNATIONALLY AND ITS ORGANIZATION IS SO  
CORRUPT, THAT IT IS BETTER TO START ALL OVER AGAIN WITH  
OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. IDEALLY, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE  
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A FOREIGN COMPANY TO TAKE OVER MANAGEMENT CONTROL OF THE  
NEW AIRLINE AND UP TO 49 PERCENT EQUITY PARTICIPATION.

4. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, I SUGGEST YOU SEND SOMEONE  
TO COLOMBO FOR A ON-THE-SPOT INVESTIGATION. ALL  
PROPOSALS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
MINISTERIAL SUB COMMITTEE ON AVIATION, C/O MINISTRY OF

SHIPPING, AVIATION AND TOURISM, NO. 54, CHATHAM STREE,  
COLOMBO 1, SRI LANKA, BY SEALED AND REGISTERED COVER  
ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31.

JOHN P. SPILLANE  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

WRIGGINS

NOTE BY OCT: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MANAGEMENT, AIRLINES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978COLOMB01312  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780126-0580  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3243527  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR SRI LANKA INTENATIONAL AIRLINE  
**TAGS:** EAIR, OTRA, CE, SRI LANKA INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014